Roxbury Community College

Twenty-Third Annual Commencement

Friday, June 6, 1997 Three o'clock p.m.

Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson

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President
Roxbury Community College

Foundation

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Cassandra Anae Simmons, Ph.D.
Alvene Williams
Robert A. Williams III
Cheryle A. Wills

**ex officio*

Administration

Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown
President

Charles Rubin
Executive Director of Academic & Management Support Systems

Nadine Dowling
Chief Development Officer

Susan Allen
Dean of Student Affairs

Monica P. Bond
Dean of Curriculum & Instruction

Barbara Burgess
Dean of Enrollment Management

Paul Willenbrock
Executive Dean of Academic Affairs

Jack Whittaker
Executive Director of Planning & Budgets

Thomas C. Sweeney
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David Murray
Director of Human Resources

David Fraizer
Executive Director of College Operations

Graduation Committee

Susan Allen
Elizabeth Clark
Doris Woods
Jeanne Ewing
Colleen Spence
Joann Wilson-Singleton
Robert Robichaud
Michael Ranaudo
Bill Polk
Justin A. Petty
Suki Choe
Ed Moussally
Alex Asare
Trudy Thompson
Gwendolyn Roscoe

Program

Processional.....*The Adrianne Ross Quartet*

Invocation.....*The Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis*

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.....*Patrice Brown, J.L. Spriggs & The Roxbury Community College Choral Society*

Welcome .....*Dr. Donald J. Reaves, Chairman, Board of Trustees*

Recognition of Guests.....*Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown, President*

Introduction to the Student Speaker.....*Barbara Burgess, Dean of Enrollment Management*

Student Speaker.....*Chesterfield Coppin*

Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....*Dr. Mildred C. Blackman*

Commencement Address.....*The Honorable Representative Shirley Owens Hicks*

Thank you to the Commencement Speaker.....*Paul Willenbrock, Executive Dean of Academic Affairs*

Charge to the College.....*Dr. Donald Reaves*

Presentation of Degree Candidates.....*Susan Allen, Dean of Student Affairs*

Introduction to Rites of Passage.....*Board of Trustee Member*

Rites of Passage Drum Song.....*Brother Joe*

Conferral of Degrees..... .....*Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown, President*

Presentation of Certificates .....*Monica Bond, Dean of Curriculum & Instruction*

Conferral of Certificates .....*Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown, President*

Introduction of the vocal selection .....*Board of Trustees Member*

Vocal Selection "Home".. .....*Patrice Brown, J.L.Spriggs, Marquita Morrisey & Andrew Dorsett at keyboard*

Recognition of Scholarship Recipients.....*William R. Sapers, Vice President, RCC Foundation*

Presentation of the NABA Award.....*Leighton H. Richardson, Past President of NABA, Scholarship Committee Chair*

Words of Inspiration.....*Board of Trustee Member*

Alumni Charge.....*Cindy Walker, Class of 1988*

Benediction.....*The Reverend Dr. Michael Ellis*

Recessional, Drumming Song by *Brother Joe*

Reception immediately following ceremony, Music by *Culture Jam*
Second floor
Roxbury Community College Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center

Special Thanks:
Refreshments by *The Elegant Concession Group Inc.*
Flowers by *Ambience*
Balloons by *Tellebelles*
Room decorations by *Elizabeth Clark*

Candidates for Degrees

Associate of Arts

Brenda I. Acajabon*
Celestina N. Agudozie
Jamil Akbar
Abdullah O. Alqshere
Jose Amaro Amaro*
Vonette B. Anglin
Fekerte Azbite*
Andrea Benitez
Kenyola E. Bennett*
Samaria J. Brown*
Dominico Cabral*
Clara Cabral*
Antoinette Tara Chabilal
Olivia D. Chacon*
Fachetty Andre Chalumeau*
Peter Shane Chandler*
Sandra S. Cherubin
Ibette Cirino*
Florence I. Craig
Naomi L. Crumb*
Chesterfield Ricardo Daniel-Coppin*
Pierre Andre Deligent
Thuyet T. Doan
Garry Gerard Dorcent
Sandra Isabel Edwards*
Kenya Afi Edwards
Ruby Obiageliaku Egegbara*
Wilfredo Feliciano
Mayra Figueroa*
Malcolm Abongwe Fombu*
Christabel U. Fombu
Cleve Alexis Frederick
LaQuina E. Garvin
Frehiwot Gebrehiwot
Tebe Afewerki Ghebreezghi*
Omayra Gonzalez*
Ruthie M. Graham*
Clarisa Guzman
Genene Habtemariam*
Lavett Aurellia Holloman*
Desmond E. Jacks
Jims D. Jean Jacques*
Ludwine D. Jean Jacques*
Elou Joseph*
Pierre Joseph
Kevin Andrew Kelly
Teeta B.Y. Kpolar*
Antoine Lee-Wesley Lafontant*
Shelly-Ann A. Lewis
Regina L. Lewis*
Michael Coleman Lydon*
Pamela Rudo Masunda*
Abdilahi A. Mohamed
Mohamoud Y. Mohamoud*

Alex Tadeu Monteiro*
Callixtus Azemnzi Muanya
Vayamena Nemorin*
Ethel M. Nixon*
Inokpoare I. Okoawo*
Olga Ordonez
Mauricio Pena*
Christophine Djomumessi Penka
Immacula Pierre*
Grenvile Lloyd Pusey
Patricia E. Quinonez
Berony Raysan
Ernestine A. Reams
Jhimps Richard
Juanita Richardson-Searls
Genda Roach
Frances Jean Rowell-Darden
Elliot Keith Scott
Junior Senat*
Kiowe Obi Smith*
Veronica Kay Spriggs
Fannie L. Stewart
Derrick O. Stewart*
Linda A. Sweeney*
Luis Andrade Tavares*
Emilia N. Udok-Anaka*
Tsige B. Washun*
Jay R. Withers

Associate of Science

Miriam Grace Acajabon*
Nur J. Adam
Dolores Juanita Agbortoko
Suline Marie Alexandre*
Valerie Alfred*
Deborah Deb Aponte*
Elizabeth J. Belfon
Sandra A. Bowden*
Vivian A. Brooks*
Charles Alexander Browne
Carleen K.M. Cameron
Ada Nora Caraballo
Darlene Carter
Ingrid J. Castillo*
Wilson Cespedes
Janice C. Chandler
Chun L. Chang*
Cheryl E. Chavis
Christina Chirlaine Cheek
Eddy Colin
Chequetta Culbreath*
Kodjo S. Dami
Chesterfield Ricardo Daniel-Copp
Berline Dautruche*

Theresa A. Davis*
Maria De Foster*
Providencia Diaz
Nesso Dubuisson
Diane Barbara Fagan
Altagracia Felipe-Victoriano
Denise Ferreira-Daly*
Musa K. Fofana*
Brian C.L. Forde Sr.
Neville W. Francis
Allyson Franklin-Rose
Anne Marie Denise Gaston
Elsie Gonzalez
Carmen Gonzalez
Ruthie M. Graham*
Paulette W. Greene-Wallace
Christa O. Gumbs-Kirby
Krista Lynn Hale
Angela Concepcion Henriquez*
Tayna O. Husbands
Indrique Izidore*
Teila Jenkins
Marie M. Jules*
Maritza A. Juliao
Albertha Kangal
Sylvie Alliance Kouanya
Soching Agnes Lam
Dawn Marie Lanza*
Eva E. Lewis*
Angela Lister
Glen A. Lomax
Alicia Marie Lopes
Antoine Jumel Loreus*
Chan Juan Luo
Marie Raphael MacDowell
Sergo Maigna
Roseller S. Mangilog
Jean Josue Marius
Pedro A. Martinez
Lillian McCoy
Mary J. Miller*
Gail Mitchell*
Shelia Marie Mixon
Robyn Renee Murphy*
Henry Nieves
Shane D. Nixon*
Peter Uchenna Obijiaku
Osebhajajeme R.A.E. Okoawo*
Linda Marie Owens*
Listra Paul
Lesbia Mercedes Paulino
Eridania J. Peralta*
Viriato Gomes Pereira
Alexandra Herminia Perez*

Margarita J. Pimentel
Pierre-Andre Pompilus*
Felisha R. Potter*
Janice L. Powell-Graham
Grenville Lloyd Pusey*
Sharon Tricia Quashie
Guy Carlo B. Ramel
Jankee Chabilal Ramos
Luz Reyes*
Lethia M. Rhodes
Eric Shaler Richards
Maria A. Rivera*
Sheila Ann Rochelle
Gwendolyn D. Roscoe*
Sheila Ursula Royer*
Reyna M. Salazar
Maricel Santiago
June M.E. Shillingford
Boris M. Shimmer
Mary Bridget Sinclair
Maybelline Sleebo Sinue
Charles R. Ussery, Sr.*
Lillian Altagracia Valera*
Evelyn Velazquez*
Jean Leonard Villard
Coles Voyard
Cathy Veronica Washington*
Sara L. Yee*
Rachel Olayemi Yerokun
Karen N. Young*
Edward Yeh*

* *Candidates designated as Walkers. These students have one or two courses to complete before receiving their degree.*

Candidates for Certificates

Computer Information Systems

Pierre-Andre Pompitus

Nur J. Adam

Ada Nora Caraballo

Ingrid J. Castillo

Sergo Maigna

Lesbia Mercedes Paulino

Maricel Santiago

Word Processing

Alexandra Baez

Junie Armand

Rosa H. Baez

Janice C. Chandler

Chun L. Chang

Christina Chirlaine Cheek

Denise Ferreira-Daly

Carmen Gonzalez

Marie Rafael MacDowell

Edna Damaris Martinez-Ayala

Altagracia P. Mayers

Listra Paul

Enid Pizzarro

Mary B. Sinclair

Elvia Thermora

Lillian Altagracia Valera

Office Technology

Falguni Barua

Maria M. Campbell

Marie-Myrtha Dorsainvil

Judith M. Quintana

Amanda Turner

Veronica Y. Valdez

Bookkeeping

Mayra Abigail Cruz

Charlette Richardson

Computer Assisted Design

Callixtus Azemnzi Muanya

Scholarships and Awards

The Business Club at RCC Award $100
This is the first scholarship/award that the Business Club at RCC is awarding. This marks the beginning of a tradition of recognizing deserving graduating Business Club Members. This award recognizes academic excellence, leadership, and contributions made to the RCC community. The 1997 recipients for this award are Michael Lydon and Laquina Garvin.

The Thomas Lowe Award $250
This award is presented to Dianne Fagan, whose academic achievement and service to the community and the College exemplify the mission of Roxbury Community College.

Francina E. Copeland Gelzer Endowed Scholarship $250
Given in honor of a resident of the Greater Roxbury community with a strong commitment to education, this award is presented to Clara Cabral on the basis of her outstanding scholastic achievement.

The NABA (National Association of Black Accountants)
Boston Metropolitan Chapter $2500
NABA has established a tradition of giving scholarships to students in the field of finance/accounting. In continuation of this tradition, The Boston Chapter in collaboration with its corporate partners has awarded one of these scholarships to a deserving business student at Roxbury Community College. This is a competitive scholarship. The recipient of this award in 1997 is Kiowe O. Smith, Business Club President.

The Claudia J. Tucker Award $500
Given annually in memory of the mother of RCC professor Dr. Royal C. Tucker, this award is presented to an outstanding RCC transfer graduate. The 1997 recipient is Peter Chandler.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship $500
This scholarship, established in memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is awarded to one RCC student in 1997. The recipient of this award is Veronica Spriggs for her academic excellence in the field of Social Science.

James Henry Caesar Endowed Scholarship $500
This scholarship was established in 1986 by a Roxbury resident in payment for the opportunities this country and community have given to him and is awarded to a talented RCC student from the Roxbury community. The 1997 recipient of the James Henry Caesar Endowed Scholarship is Alex Monteiro.

Letitia Garofalo Endowed Memorial Scholarship $500
Established by a native of Quincy, Massachusetts who used her knowledge of languages to live and work in communities around the world, this endowed memorial scholarship is awarded to 1997 RCC graduate,
Juanita Richardson Searls.

Alise Rostan Dowling Scholarship $750
The scholarship established in the memory of Alise Rostan Dowling, is awarded to a student who is planning to enroll or is currently enrolled in the Nursing Program. The recipient for 1997 is Lydya Matombo.

Hiram Grand Lodge & Bay State Grand Chapter, O.E.S.
Outstanding Female Graduate Award $1,000
This special award is presented through the generosity of the Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., Inc. and the Bay State Grand Chapter, O.E.S. to the female member of the 1997 graduating class whom the faculty has selected on the basis of both academic achievement and service to the College and community. The 1997 recipient of the award is Antoinette Chabilal.

Hiram Grand Lodge & Bay State Grand Chapter, O.E.S.
Outstanding Male Graduate Award $1,000
This award is presented to the male member of the 1997 graduating class whom the faculty has selected on the basis of both academic achievement and service to the College and community. The 1997 recipient of the Hiram Grand Lodge & Bay State Grand Chapter, O.E.S. Outstanding Male Graduate Award is Kiowe O. Smith.

The Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson Award $1,000
Given annually in memory of one of the original members of RCC's Board of Trustees, the Betty Johnson Award is presented to the graduating

student who has earned the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a minimum of 50 credits at Roxbury Community College. The award is one of the most prestigious scholarships presented at the RCC graduation ceremony. The recipient is valedictorian of the Roxbury Community College Class of 1997. This year, the honor is presented to Elizabeth K. Johnson.

The Sapers Scholars Award $2,000
Through the generosity of the William R. Sapers family of Boston, ten awards will be offered to 1997 RCC graduates who transfer to an accredited four-year college. This special "50-50" award includes a $1,000 transfer loan (50%). The recipents of this award for 1997 are Peter Chandler, Sandra Cherubin, Chesterfield Coppin, Janice Powell-Graham, Teeta Kpolar, Antoine Lafontant, Soching Lam, Glen Lomax, Eric Shaler Richards, and Veronica Spriggs.

The Leadership Alliance Scholarship (with New England Colleges Fund)
Antoinette Chabilal to attend Tufts University
Kiowe Obi Smith to attend Stonehill College

The Science Department selection for Tufts Environmental Futures Fund Scholarship
Frehiwot Gebrehiwot
Abdilahi Mohamed

Scholarship & Honors Commitee's recomendations for transfer scholarships from outside institutions:

Foster Furcolo Scholarship, UMass, Boston
Clarisa Guzman

New England transfer Association
Peter Chandler

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Nur Adam
Ludwine Jean Jacques

Nominees for the Boston University by RCC Scholarship
Jims Devis Jean Jacques
Juanita Richardson Searls

Departmental Scholarships

Departmental scholarships are presented to graduating students for outstanding academic achievement in a specific field of study. The following students are awarded.

Departmental Scholarships $300

Janice Powell Graham	Accounting
Chan Juan Luo	Accounting
Chesterfield Daniel-Coppin	Business Administration
Florence Craig	Business Administration
Nesso Dubuisson	Business Management
Ruthie Graham	Business Management
Nur J. Adam	Computer Information Systems
Maricel Santiago	Computer Information Systems
Luz Reyes	Executive Secretary
Maria Rivera	Medical Secretary
Linda Owens	Legal Secretary
Janice Chandler	Word Processing
Eric Shaler Richards	Early Childhood Education
Sheila Royer	Early Childhood Education
Antoinette Chabilal	Biological Science
Frehiwot Gebrehiwot	Biological Science
Luis Tavares	Biological Science
Fachetty Chalumeau	Mathematics
Callixtus Muanya	Computer-Assisted Drafting
Eddy Colin	Nursing
Sylvie Kouanya	Nursing
Roseller Mangilog	Nursing
Boris Shimmer	Nursing
Vonette Anglin	Pre-Nursing
Sandra Cherubin	Pre-Nursing
Ludwine Jean Jacques	Pre-Nursing
Christopher Penka	Pre-Nursing
Clara Cabral	Liberal Arts
Garry Dorcent	Liberal Arts
Abdilahi Mohamed	Liberal Arts
Pierre Deligent	Social Science
Yolanda E. Funderburg	Social Science
Frances Rowell-Darden	Social Science

Academic Regalia

The caps, gowns and hoods of the academic procession date back to the Middle Ages, when they were common dress for scholars. Monks and students wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th century European castles and halls of learning.

The bachelor's gown has a pleated front and long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown, which may be worn open, is distinguishable by its long square sleeves. The doctor's gown is trimmed with velvet panels and has three velvet bars on the bell shaped sleeves.

The hood provides the color, contrast and symbolism of the procession. Certain colors became associated with particular areas of knowledge. For example, the hood border worn by a doctor of theology was red, a color associated with the Catholic Church; a medical doctor wears a green border, after the healing powers of medicinal herbs.

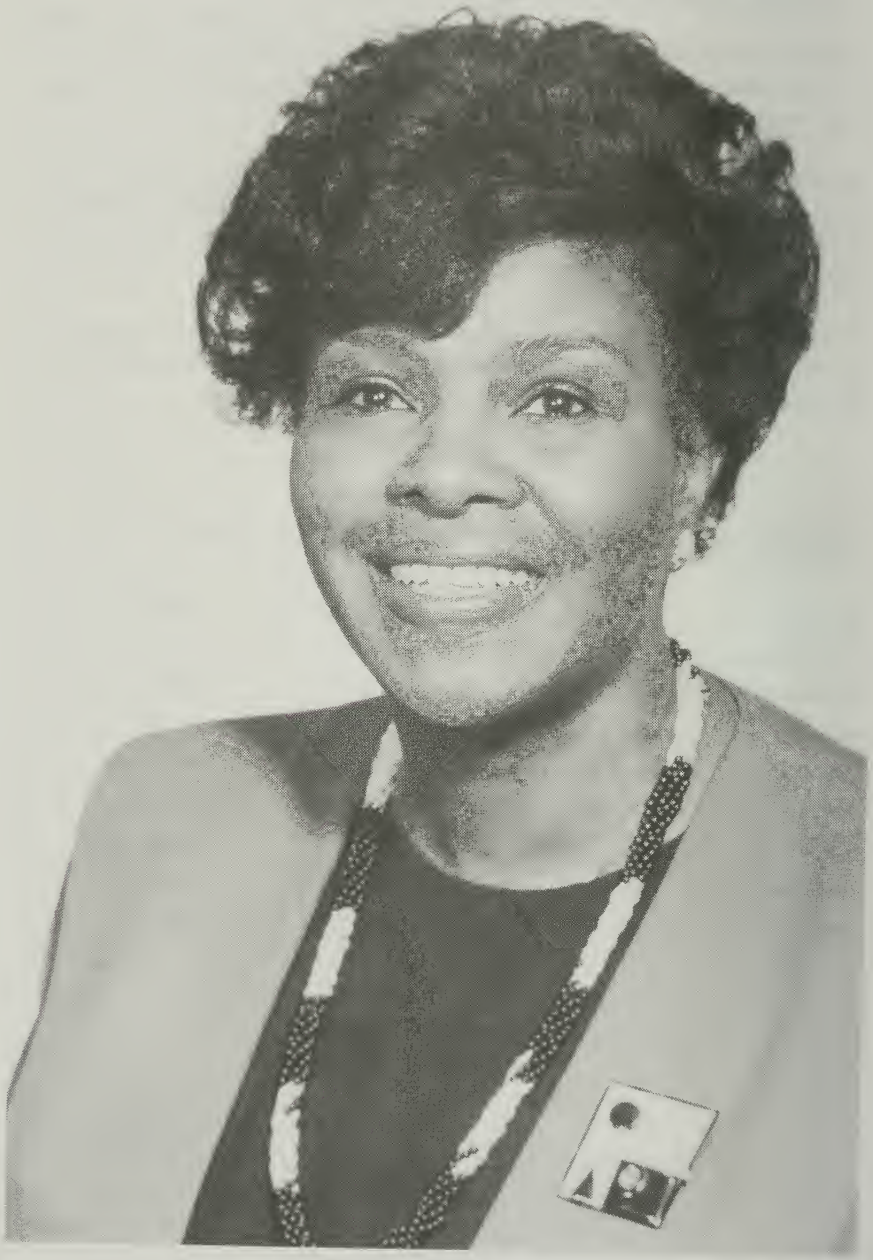
In Europe, a uniform color system never developed. However in the United States, an intercollegiate committee meeting in 1895 decided upon uniform color standards, assigning a specific color to each field of study.

Departmental Colors of Faculty Members' Hoods & Tassels

Agriculture	*Maize*	*Library Science*	*Lemon*
Arts, Humanities	*White*	*Medicine*	*Green*
Chiropractic	*Silver Gray*	*Music*	*Pink*
Dentistry	*Lilac*	*Nursing*	*Apricot*
Economics	*Copper*	*Pharmacy*	*Olive Green*
Education	*Light Blue*	*Philosophy*	*Dark Blue*
Fine Arts	*Brown*	*Science*	*Golden Yellow*
Journalism	*Crimson*	*Social Work*	*Citron*
Law	*Purple*	*Theology*	*Scarlet*

Commencement Address

The Honorable Representative Shirley Owens-Hicks



Shirley Owens-Hicks is currently serving her sixth term as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. At the beginning of her first term, in 1987, Representative Owens-Hicks was among those profiled in Boston Magazine as "A Face to Watch." Those who have watched her political development over the years have continued to appreciate her steady accomplishments and her quiet strength.

A member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and The Committee on Election Laws, Representative Owens-Hicks has held a number of leadership positions during her legislative career. She made history by serving as Chairwoman of The Committee on Education, Arts and the Humanities, the first African-American and the first woman to hold this position. She has served also as Chairwoman of the Committee on Federal Financial Assistance, The Special Commission on Long-Term Care Services for the Elderly, The Task Force on Women in Poverty, and The Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus.

A former elected member of the Boston School Committee, Representative Owens-Hicks continues to draw upon the political insight, issues expertise, and concern for her constituents developed during that 1984-1988 tenure. She is consistent in her strong advocacy on behalf of African-Americans and other people of color, children, senior citizens, the poor, the unempowered, the disenfranchised and dispossessed. Legislative and budget priorities include educatio, violence prevention, human services, employment, economic development, affordable housing, health care, public safety and affirmative action. Additionally the viability of community agencies and Neighborhood Health Centers receive special attention.

Representative Owens-Hicks is a former President/CEO of Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts and Counselor at University of Massachusetts at Boston. She attended Boston University and Harvard University Graduate School of Education, where she earned a Masters degree in Education. She is the mother of two daughters and a grandmother of three grandchildren. Representing the 6th Suffolk District, she resides in Mattapan.

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